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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

(16)

21 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

Although UN forces are building pressure against Seoul and large numbers of North Korean troops are reportedly moving to the defense of that city, no major changes have occurred on the two fronts. In the Inchon area, the US 1st Marine Division continued to rush men and supplies across the Han River, but met stiff resistance in the advance toward Seoul. Although enemy resistance is weakening in the southeastern front, there is no firm indication of a general withdrawal. Carrier-based planes took over the entire support mission near Seoul as UN troops advanced beyond naval gunfire range. UN air forces flew a new record number of sorties, totalling 698.

Ground

Inchon Front. Enemy resistance is increasing east of the Han River, where the US 1st Marine Division is encountering a heavy network of land mines and prepared defense positions. The ROK marines and elements of the US 7th Division are patrolling the flanks of the UN advance toward Seoul.

Southeastern Front. Enemy resistance is weakening on all sectors of the front, but there is no firm indication yet of a general withdrawal. The principal advances by UN forces were made along the Naktong River, where the US 9th Regiment succeeded in establishing another bridgehead just north of the junction of the Naktong and Nam rivers. The US 23rd and 38th Regiments are consolidating their positions west of the Naktong along the Changnyong-Hyonpung sector. The Taegu-Waegwan road has been opened, but the US 1st Cavalry Division has been impeded in the advance north by enemy minefields south and southwest of Tabu. Limited gains were made along the north sector from the Walled City area to Ponang.

Navy

UN troops in the Inchon-Seoul area have advanced beyond naval gunfire range, but carrier-based planes are executing close support

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missions. Including missions flown in the south sector near Chinju, naval aircraft flew a total of 274 sorties. Surface vessels maintained the blockade of the west coast, and patrolled the east coast.

Air

UN air forces flew a record number of sorties, reaching a total of 698, of which 478 were combat attacks. Cargo planes flew into the Kimpo airfield 394 tons of supplies and 188 passengers. Most of the military and industrial targets in Korea have been neutralized, but 60 B-29's were despatched to attack road and rail lines, and to interdict the movement of personnel and supplies by the enemy.

III. General Situation

No significant reports have been received within the past 24 hours.

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Director of Central
Intelligence